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Work-related injuries methodology

Reference period 2021-22 financial year

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Introduction

The Work-related Injuries (WRI) Survey has been run every fourth financial year since 2005-06 as a topic on the Multipurpose Household Survey (MPHS). The MPHS is conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) and is designed to collect statistics for a number of small, self-contained topics.

Prior to 2005-06, the Work-related Injuries (WRI) Survey was first conducted as a supplement to the LFS in September 2000

The Work-related Injuries survey provides a range of information about the people who experienced a work-related injury or illness in the 12 months prior to interview.

Additional information about survey design, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also applies to supplementary surveys, can be found in [Labour Force, Australia, Methodology \(https://www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/jun-2021\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/jun-2021).

Descriptions of the underlying concepts and structure of Australia's labour force statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling the estimates, are presented in [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release).

Reference period

The reference period for the Work-Related Injuries survey is the 2021-22 financial year.

Scope and coverage

The scope of the LFS is the civilian population aged 15 years and over, excluding:

- Members of the permanent defence forces
- Certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments
- Overseas residents in Australia
- Members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

The following additional exclusions apply to the MPHS

- Very remote parts of Australia and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- People living in non-private households such as hotels, university residences, students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, inmates of prisons and residents of other institutions (e.g. retirement homes, homes for people with disabilities)

In the LFS, coverage rules are applied, which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection in the survey.

See [Labour Force, Australia, Methodology \(https://www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/jun-2021\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/jun-2021) for more details.

Collection method

The Work-related injuries topic is collected within the Multi-Purpose Household Survey

(MPHS), a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Each month, a sample of households are selected for the MPHS from the responding households who are in the last of their 8 months in the LFS. In these households, after the LFS had been fully completed for each person, a usual resident aged 15 years and over is selected at random to complete the questionnaire.

Data are collected via personal interviews by either telephone or in person at selected households.

For more details, see the MPHS chapter in [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/2021/methods-four-pillars-labour-statistics/household-surveys/labour-multipurpose-household-survey-topics) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/2021/methods-four-pillars-labour-statistics/household-surveys/labour-multipurpose-household-survey-topics>).

Sample Design

This survey is based on the new sample introduced into LFS in July 2018. The new sample design has adopted the use of the Address Register as the sampling frame for unit selection, and the sampling fractions for selection probabilities within each state have been updated to reflect the most recent population distribution based on results from the 2016 Census of Population and Housing. As with each regular sample design, the impacts on the data are expected to be minimal. For more information, see the [Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/research/labour-force-survey-sample-design). (<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/research/labour-force-survey-sample-design>)

Sample Size

The sample is pooled from data collected each month across the financial year. The sample size of the 2021-22 Work-related Injuries survey (after taking into account the scope, coverage and sub-sampling exclusions) was approximately 23,000.

For 2021-22, there were no WRI surveys conducted during October 2021 due to the Post Census Review Survey.

Weighting and estimation

Population benchmarks

Survey weights are calibrated against population benchmarks to ensure that the survey estimates conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population, rather

than the distribution within the sample itself.

When calibrating the weights, the survey sample is grouped into categories based on the following characteristics:

- State or territory
- Capital city or rest of state
- Sex
- Age
- Employed full-time, part-time, unemployed or not in the labour force.

The Labour Force Survey estimates are calculated in such a way as to sum to the independent estimates of the civilian population aged 15 years and over (population benchmarks). These population benchmarks are updated quarterly based on Estimated Resident Population (ERP) data. See [Labour Force, Australia, Methodology \(https://www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/jun-2021\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/jun-2021) for more information.

From August 2015, Labour Force estimates have been compiled using population benchmarks based on the most recently available release of ERP data, continually revised on a quarterly basis.

The Work-related Injuries benchmarks were based on a 12-month average of the LFS estimates for the June to July financial year, as reported in the November 2022 issue of [Labour Force, Australia \(https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/may-2022\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/may-2022). This approach is used to remove the seasonality from the employed, unemployed and not in the labour force benchmarks and to improve coherence between the two publications.

Estimates from previous surveys back to 2005-06 have also been revised using this method, with benchmarks based on the same population series (as at November 2022).

Comparability with LFS

Due to differences in the scope and sample size of this MPHS and that of the monthly LFS, the estimates procedure may lead to some small variations between labour force estimates from this survey and those from the LFS.

Survey output

A number of spreadsheets are available from [Data downloads \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/work-related-injuries/latest-release#data-downloads\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/work-related-injuries/latest-release#data-downloads). They

present tables of estimates and their corresponding relative standard errors (RSEs).

For users who wish to undertake more detailed analysis, the underlying microdata is available in [DataLab \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/datalab\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/datalab) and [TableBuilder \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder). For more details, refer to [Microdata: Work-related Injuries \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/work-related-injuries\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/work-related-injuries).

Survey content

The survey is designed to provide a large range of statistics on labour market dynamics across the following conceptual groups:

- Geography
- Demographics
- Cultural diversity
- Families
- Education and Qualifications
- Health
- Participation and Job attachment
- Characteristics of employment
- Characteristics of main job
- Employment arrangements
- Income and Earnings
- Work-related injury or illness
- Characteristics of job where work-related injury occurred
- Outcomes and financial assistance for work-related injury

For more details, refer to the Data item list

Data item list

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[855.28 KB]

Conceptual Framework

Persons who worked at some time in the last 12 months were asked whether they experienced a work-related injury or illness in the same period.

The survey broadly defined work-related injuries and illnesses as any injury or illness or disease which first occurred in the last 12 months, where a person suffers either physically or mentally from a condition that has arisen out of, or in the course of, employment. This includes:

- Injuries or illnesses sustained by all categories of employed workers;

- Injuries or illnesses that have been claimed under workers' compensation; and
- Injuries or illnesses that have not been claimed under workers' compensation.

Work-related injuries or illnesses resulting in death are excluded.

Accuracy and quality

Reliability of the estimates

As the estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of households, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from those estimates that would have been produced if all households had been included in the survey or a different sample was selected. Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey - sampling error and non-sampling error.

- sampling error is the difference between the published estimate and the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey.
- non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and effective processing procedures.

Some of the estimates contained in the tables have a relative standard error (RSE) of 50 per cent or greater. These estimates are marked as unreliable for general use. Estimates with an RSE of between 25 and 50 per cent are also marked and should be used with caution.

More on reliability of estimates

Non-sampling error

Non-sampling error may occur in any collection, whether it is based on a sample or a full count such as a census. Sources of non-sampling error include non-response, errors in reporting by respondents or recording of answers by interviewers and errors in coding and processing data. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling error by careful design and testing of questionnaires, training and supervision of interviewers, and extensive editing and quality control procedures at all stages of data processing.

Sampling error

Sampling error is the difference between the published estimates, derived from a sample of persons, and the value that would have been produced if the total population (as defined by the scope of the survey) had been included in the survey. One measure of the sampling error is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate

might have varied by chance because only a sample of persons was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all persons had been surveyed, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs.

Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

$$RSE\% = \left(\frac{SE}{estimate} \right) \times 100$$

RSEs for count estimates have been calculated using the Jackknife method of variance estimation. This involves the calculation of 30 'replicate' estimates based on 30 different subsamples of the obtained sample. The variability of estimates obtained from these subsamples is used to estimate the sample variability surrounding the count estimate.

The Excel spreadsheets in the Data downloads section on the Key findings page contain all the tables produced for this release and the calculated RSEs for each of the estimates.

Only estimates (numbers or percentages) with RSEs less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most analytical purposes. However, estimates with larger RSEs have been included. Estimates with an RSE in the range 25% to 50% should be used with caution while estimates with RSEs greater than 50% are considered too unreliable for general use. All cells in the Excel spreadsheets with RSEs greater than 25% contain a comment indicating the size of the RSE. These cells can be identified by a red indicator in the corner of the cell. The comment appears when the mouse pointer hovers over the cell.

Another measure is the Margin of Error (MOE), which shows the largest possible difference that could be between the estimate due to sampling error and what would have been produced had all persons been included in the survey with a given level of confidence. It is useful for understanding and comparing the accuracy of proportion estimates.

Where provided, MOEs for estimates are calculated at the 95% confidence level. At this level, there are 19 chances in 20 that the estimate will differ from the population value by less than the provided MOE. The 95% MOE is obtained by multiplying the SE by 1.96.

$$MOE = SE \times 1.96$$

Calculation of standard error

Standard errors can be calculated using the estimates (counts or percentages) and the corresponding RSEs. See [How to Interpret Standard Errors on Levels and](#)

[Movements, Reliability of estimates for Labour Force data \(/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/nov-2022#reliability-of-estimates\)](#) for more details.

Proportions and percentages

Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. A formula to approximate the RSE of a proportion is given below. This formula is only valid when x is a subset of y:

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) \approx \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2}$$

Differences

The difference between two survey estimates (counts or percentages) can also be calculated from published estimates. Such an estimate is also subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE(x - y) \approx \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or sub populations, it provides a good approximation for the differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

Significance testing

A statistical significance test for a comparison between estimates can be performed to determine whether it is likely that there is a difference between the corresponding population characteristics. The SE of the difference between two corresponding estimates (x and y) can be calculated using the formula shown above in the Differences section. This SE is then used to calculate the following test statistic:

$$\left(\frac{x-y}{SE(x-y)}\right)$$

If the value of this test statistic is greater than 1.96 then there is evidence, with a 95% level of confidence, of a statistically significant difference in the two populations with respect to that characteristic. Otherwise, it cannot be stated with confidence that there is a real difference between the populations with respect to that characteristic.

Rounding

As estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

Glossary

[Show all](#)

Applied for workers' compensation

To have formally applied for workers' compensation by completing an application for compensation.

Contributing family workers

People who work without pay, in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.

Current job

A job that a person was working in during the reference week.

Current main job

The job that a person was working in during the reference week in which most hours were usually worked.

Current other job

Refers to a current job other than the current main job.

Days or shifts absent from work

Includes all work hours spent on medical consultation, hospitalisation and rest due to the injury or illness. The days or shifts absent do not have to be consecutive.

Duration of current main job

Length of time worked in current main job.

Duration of employment in job where most recent work-related injury or illness occurred

Length of time worked in job where most recent work-related injury or illness occurred.

Level of highest educational attainment

Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has

attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken. It is categorised according to the [Australian Standard Classification of Education, 2001 \(/statistics/classifications/australian-standard-classification-education-ascend/2001\)](http://statistics/classifications/australian-standard-classification-education-ascend/2001) (cat. no. 1272.0) Level of education classification.

Employed persons

All people aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers), or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers), or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement
 - on strike or locked out
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were owner managers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Employees

People who work for a public or private employer and receive remuneration in wages, salary, on a commission basis (with or without a retainer), tips, piece rates, or payment in kind, excluding Owner Managers of Incorporated Enterprises (OMIES).

Employees with paid leave entitlements

Employees who were entitled to either paid sick leave or paid holiday leave (or both).

Employees without paid leave entitlements

Employees who were not entitled to, or did not know whether they were entitled to, paid sick and paid holiday leave.

Employers

People who operate their own economic enterprise or engage independently in a profession or trade, and hire one or more employees.

Financial assistance

Monetary assistance received from any party to cover medical expenses or income loss, incurred due to their work-related injury or illness.

Fixed term contract

See 'Worked on a fixed-term contract'.

Full-time workers

Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and others who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Incorporated enterprise

An enterprise which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company).

Industry

In this publication, industry relates to a group of businesses or organisations that perform similar sets of activities in terms of the production of goods or services. Industry is classified according to [Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification \(ANZSIC\), 2006 \(Revision 2.0\) \(/statistics/classifications/australian-and-new-zealand-standard-industrial-classification-anzsic/latest-release\)](#) (cat. no. 1292.0).

Injury or illness sustained

See 'Work-related injury or illness'.

Last 12 months

The 12 months up to and including the survey reference week.

Main job

The job in which most hours are usually worked.

Multiple jobholder

People who worked in more than one job or business during the survey reference week, excluding those who only worked in more than one job because they had changed jobs during the reference week.

Non-school qualification

Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. They include qualifications at the Postgraduate

Degree Level, Master Degree Level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate Level, Bachelor Degree Level, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level, and Certificates I, II, III and IV levels. Non-school qualifications may be attained concurrently with school qualifications.

Not employed

People who are either unemployed or not in the labour force.

Not in the labour force

People who are not in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed' as defined.

Occupation

An occupation is a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their title and tasks, skill level and skill specialisation which are grouped together for the purposes of classification. In this publication, occupation refers to Major Group and Sub-Major Group as defined by [ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 2013, Version 1.2 \(cat. no. 1220.0\) \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/allprimarymainfeatures/4AF138F6DB4FFD4BCA2571E200096BAD?opendocument\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/allprimarymainfeatures/4AF138F6DB4FFD4BCA2571E200096BAD?opendocument).

Owner managers of incorporated enterprises (OMIEs)

People who work in their own incorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company). These people are sometimes classified with employees as 'wage and salary earners'. They can work alone or in a business with employees.

Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises (OMUEs)

People who operate their own unincorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity in which the owner and the business are legally inseparable, so that the owner is liable for any business debts that are incurred. Includes those engaged independently in a trade or profession. They can work alone or in a business with employees.

Paid leave entitlements

The entitlement of employees (excluding owner managers or incorporated enterprises) to either paid holiday leave or paid sick leave (or both) in their job. People employed in their own business or who were contributing family workers were not asked about their leave entitlements.

Previous job

The last job in which employment ceased during the last 12 months.

Reference week

The week preceding the week in which the interview was conducted.

Shift arrangements

A system of working whereby the daily hours of operation at the place of employment are split into at least two set work periods (shifts), for different groups of workers.

Shift work

Worked under shift arrangements.

Status of employment

Classifies employed persons according to the following categories on the basis of their current job:

- Employees
 - with paid leave entitlements
 - without paid leave entitlements
- Owner managers with employees (employer)
 - Owner manager of incorporated enterprise with employees
 - Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise with employees
- Owner managers without employees (own account worker)
 - Owner manager of incorporated enterprise without employees
 - Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise without employees
- Contributing family workers.

Unemployed

Persons who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and;
- were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Usual hours worked

The hours usually worked per week by an employed person.

Unincorporated enterprise

A business entity in which the owner and the business are legally inseparable, so that the owner is liable for any business debts that are incurred.

Worked at some time in the last 12 months

People who worked in a job in the last 12 months, regardless of whether they worked full-time or part-time.

Worked full-time

People who usually worked 35 hours or more per week in the job in which the work-related injury or illness occurred.

Worked part-time

People who usually worked less than 35 hours or more per week in the job in which the work-related injury or illness occurred.

Workers' compensation

Workers' compensation includes:

- payments by an insurer or other liable party for costs related to a work-related injury or illness;
- medical payments, incapacity payments (income maintenance and salary top-up), rehabilitation payments, travel payments and legal payments; and
- any 'settlement' or 'judgement of claim'.

Work-related injury or illness

Any injury or illness or disease which first occurred in the last 12 months, where a person suffers either physically or mentally from a condition that has arisen out of, or in the course of, employment.

The injury or illness was considered to be in scope if the respondent first became aware of it in the last 12 months, even though the cause of the injury or illness may have occurred outside the 12 month reference period. Included are injuries or illnesses that occurred while commuting to and from work, outside the place of work but while on work duty, or during work breaks.

Information was collected about the respondent's most recent work-related injury or illness if there was more than one work-related injury or illness in the reference period.

Work-related injury rate

The number of people who experienced a work-related injury or illness in the last 12 months expressed as a percentage of the total number of people who worked at some time during the last 12 months.

Works on a contract basis

Owner managers who were engaged by an organisation to provide a particular service or undertake a particular task at an agreed price or rate, and generally for a specified period.

Worked on a fixed-term contract

Employees with a contract of employment which specifies that the employment will be terminated on a particular date or on completion of a specific task.

Classifications

Geographic data are classified according to the [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\), 2016](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1270.0.55.001Main+Features1July%202016?OpenDocument=) (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1270.0.55.001Main+Features1July%202016?OpenDocument=) (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001)

Country of birth data are classified according to the [Standard Australian Classification of Countries \(SACC\), 2016](/statistics/classifications/standard-australian-classification-countries-sacc/latest-release) (/statistics/classifications/standard-australian-classification-countries-sacc/latest-release) (cat. no. 1269.0).

Occupation data are classified according to the [ANZSCO – Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 2013, Version 1.2](/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1220.0) (/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1220.0) (cat. no. 1220.0).

Industry data are classified according to the [Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification \(ANZSIC\), 2006 \(Revision 2.0\)](/statistics/classifications/australian-and-new-zealand-standard-industrial-classification-anzsic/latest-release) (/statistics/classifications/australian-and-new-zealand-standard-industrial-classification-anzsic/latest-release) (cat. no. 1292.0).

Educational attainment data are classified according to the [Australian Standard Classification of Education \(ASCED\), 2001](/statistics/classifications/australian-standard-classification-education-asced/2001) (/statistics/classifications/australian-standard-classification-education-asced/2001) (cat. no. 1272.0).

Work-related injuries data are classified according to [Safe Work Australia](https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/) (https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/)'s [Type of Occurrence Classifications System \(TOOCS\)](https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/type-occurrence-classification-system-toocs-3rd-edition-may-2008) (https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/type-occurrence-classification-system-toocs-3rd-edition-may-2008). See [Appendix](/methodologies/work-related-injuries-methodology/2021-22#Appendix) (/methodologies/work-related-injuries-methodology/2021-22#Appendix) for more information.

Related publications

ABS publications which may also be of interest include:

- [National Health Survey: Injuries](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=4384.0&) (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=4384.0&)

[viewtitle=National%20Health%20Survey:%20%20Injuries,%20Australia~2001~Latest~19/11/2003&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=4384.0&issue=2001&num=&view=&_ \(4384.0\), 1995-2001](#)

- [Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses, Northern Territory \(<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6301.7Oct%201997?OpenDocument>\)](#) (6301.7), 1997
- [Work Related Injuries and Illnesses, South Australia \(<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6301.4October%201996?OpenDocument>\)](#) (6301.4), 1996
- [Work Related Injuries and Illnesses, New South Wales \(<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6301.1October%201993?OpenDocument>\)](#) (6301.1), 1993
- [Industrial Accidents - Queensland \(<https://archive.org/details/australian-statistics?query=6301.3&sort=-date>\)](#) (6301.3), 1966-1979
- [Industrial Accidents \(Series A\) - Western Australia \(<https://archive.org/details/australian-statistics?query=6301.5&sort=-date>\)](#) (6301.5), 1962-1979
- [Industrial Accidents \(Series B\) - Western Australia \(<https://archive.org/details/australian-statistics?query=6302.5&sort=-date>\)](#) (6302.5), 1961-1979
- [Industrial Accidents - South Australia \(<https://archive.org/details/australian-statistics?query=6301.4&sort=-date>\)](#), 1961-1977
- [Industrial Accidents and Workers' Compensation - Victoria \(<https://archive.org/details/australian-statistics?query=6302.2&sort=-date>\)](#) (6302.2), 1957-1975
- [Industrial Accidents: Preliminary Statement - Victoria \(<https://archive.org/details/australian-statistics?query=6301.2&sort=-date>\)](#) (6301.2), 1967-1974
- [Industrial Accident Statistics, Quarterly - Queensland \(<https://archive.org/details/australian-statistics?query=6302.3&sort=-date>\)](#), 1966-1970
- [Industrial Accidents, Preliminary - South Australia \(<https://archive.org/details/industrial-accidents-south-australia-1963-1964-prelim>\)](#), 1963-64
- [Labour Report \(\[Labour Force, Australia \\(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release\\)\]\(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6101.0&viewtitle=Labour%20Report~1970~Previous~01/12/1970&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6101.0&issue=1970&num=&view=&_ \(6101.0\), 1913-1969• <a href=\) \(6202.0\)](#)
- [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\)](#) (6102.0.55.001)

The statistical publications produced by Safe Work Australia may also be of interest:

- [Safe Work Australia - Data and Research \(<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/data-and-research/explore-our-data>\)](#)

Appendix

Work-related injuries data are classified according to the [Type of Occurrence Classifications](#)

System (<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/type-occurrence-classification-system-toocs-3rd-edition-may-2008>) (TOOCS) which was developed by Safe Work Australia for coding workers' compensation claims.

The work-related injury or illness classification used in this survey was based on the TOOCS nature of injury codes.

The classification of how work-related injury or illness occurred was based on the TOOCS mechanism of injury codes.

Nature of injury

Fracture

- Breaking of a bone, cartilage, etc.

Chronic joint or muscle condition

- Arthritis
- Disorders of the joints
- Disorders of the spinal vertebrae and intervertebral discs
- Disorders of muscle, tendons and other soft tissues (e.g. Occupational Overuse Syndrome and Repetitive Strain Injury if this is the only description given)
- Acquired musculoskeletal deformities (e.g. flat feet, mallet finger, hammer toe)

Sprain or strain

- Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles
- Acute trauma sprains and strains
- Sprains and strains of cartilage
- Dislocations

Cut or open wound

- Open wound not involving traumatic amputation (e.g. broken tooth, cuts, punctures, dog bites, tearing away of fingernail, serious wounds containing glass, metal or other foreign body)

Crushing injury or internal organ damage

- Internal injury of chest, abdomen and pelvis
- Injury with intact skin surface and crushing injury (e.g. bruises, haematomas)

Superficial injury

Covers minor injuries such as:

- Needle stick puncture
- Abrasions, grazes, friction burns or blisters

- Scratch injury from a foreign body in eye
- Splinter or other foreign body in places other than eye

Stress or other mental condition

- Stress
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Nervous breakdown
- Effects of witnessing traumatic events
- Effects of involvement in a hold-up
- Victim of harassment
- Hyperventilation (hysterical, psychogenic)
- Hysterical symptoms
- Phobias
- Obsessional and compulsive symptoms
- Short term shock

Amputation

- Traumatic amputation including loss of eyeball

Burns

- Electrical burns, chemical burns, cold burns, hot burns, friction burns, combination burn or burns not elsewhere classified

Other

- Responses that could not be included into one of the categories above such as asthma, cancer, concussion or heart attack

Mechanism of injury

Lifting, pushing, pulling, bending

- Muscular stress while lifting, carrying or putting down objects
- Single or multiple events
- Lifting or carrying resulting in stress fractures
- Repetitive movement, high muscle loading
- Muscular stress while handling objects
- Single or multiple events
- Pushing or pulling objects
- Throwing or pressing objects
- Stress fractures from handling objects
- Continually shovelling
- Climbing ladders causing upper and lower limb injuries
- Muscular stress with no objects being handled

- Bending down, reaching, turning and twisting movements where no objects are being handled
- Stress fractures without objects being handled (e.g. from running)
- Continually twisting neck with no object being handled

Repetitive movement with low muscle loading

- Occupational overuse and repetitive movement occurrences

Prolonged standing, working in cramped or unchanging positions

- Working in cramped or unchanging positions
- Prolonged standing causing varicose veins

Vehicle accident

- Any accident or incident on a private road, farm, mine site or footpath involving a vehicle where the most serious injury is sustained as a result of that accident or injury
- A vehicle catching on fire after the accident
- Any accident or incident in a factory, mine or car park involving a fall from a moving vehicle

Hitting, being hit or cut by object or vehicle

- Hitting stationary objects or moving objects (e.g. cutting oneself while using a knife or other tool)
- Rubbing and chafing from wearing footwear or clothes, using tools or handling objects
- Being hit by falling objects
- Being bitten by an animal
- Being bitten by a snake
- Being trapped by moving machinery or equipment or between stationary and moving objects
- Exposure to mechanical vibration (e.g. from chain saws)
- Being assaulted by a person or persons

Fall on same level

- All slips, trips, stumbles, steps and jumps, even if a fall does not follow
- Falls of short distances such as off a curb or into a gutter
- Falls up stairs
- Fall with no further description

Fall from a height

- A fall from ground level to below ground level
- Landing awkwardly after a jump from a height
- Falling off an animal
- A fall down stairs etc.

Exposure to mental stress

- Exposure to a traumatic event
- Exposure to workplace or occupational violence (e.g. victim of assault or threatened assault by a person or persons, being a victim of or witnessing hold-ups etc.)
- Being a victim of sexual, racial, or other verbal harassment
- Work pressure (e.g. mental stress arising from work responsibilities, conflict with peers, performance counselling)
- Attempted suicide
- Other mental stress factors

Long term exposure to sound

- Long term exposure to workshop or factory noise, sharp sudden sounds, or low frequency (subsonic pressure) sounds

Contact with a chemical or substance

- Single contact with chemical or substance
- Immediate allergic reactions to a substance
- Splash with acid
- Caustic or corrosive substances in the eyes
- Contact dermatitis
- Swallowing chemical substances
- Exposure to smoke from a bush fire, chemical fire etc.
- Long term contact with chemicals or substances
- Acquired allergic reactions
- Slow poisoning, as with lead or other heavy metals
- Long term inhalation of dust or fibres, as with asbestos fibres
- Exposure to cigarette smoke
- Insect and spider bites and stings
- Contact with poisonous parts of plant or marine life (e.g. blue ringed octopus, bluebottles, stone fish etc.)
- Other and unspecified contact with chemical or substance

Other

- Those responses that could not be included into one of the categories above such as contact with hot food/drink/beverages, exposure to extreme weather, jumping on objects, struck by lightning or sunburn

History of changes

2021-22

- Estimates were rebenchmarked to a 12-month average of population estimates from the [Labour Force Survey \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/may-2022\)](https://statistics.labour.gov.au/publications/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/may-2022) (as at November 2022). Estimates from previous surveys were

also re-benchmarked using 12 month averages from the same LFS population series (as at November 2022) to improve coherence and consistency in the timeseries.

- Microdata has been released in [DataLab \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/datalab\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/datalab) for the first time, refer to [Microdata: Work-related Injuries \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/work-related-injuries\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/work-related-injuries) for more information
 - Questions related to 'Location where work-related injury or illness occurred' were modified to ask about work-related injuries that occurred while 'Working from home'.
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Show all

2017-18

- New data items
 - Whether currently studying
 - Year completed non-school qualification
 - Reason away from work or worked less hours than usual
- 'Social marital status' and 'Relationship in household' data items are temporarily unavailable for this period due to an issue with some family coding for the period July 2014 to June 2018 which has affected a range of family estimates. These items will be revised at a later date.

2013-14

- New data items
 - Whether reported most recent work-related injury or illness to someone in the workplace
 - Who in the workplace was told about the most recent work-related injury or illness
 - Sector of current main job
 - Sector of job where most recent work-related injury or illness occurred
 - Self-assessed health status
 - Long term health conditions
- Data items related to formal training in OH&S risks in the workplace were discontinued.

2009-10

- New data items
 - Remoteness Areas
 - Number of days or shifts usually worked in job where most recent work-related injury occurred
 - Whether received formal training in OH&S risks in the workplace in current or most recent job
 - Type of OH&S training undertaken

- 'Whether received any formal training in OH&S risks in workplace at any time prior to work-related injury or illness' is determined from responses to questions about whether received particular types of training. In 2005-06 this item was determined by asking a question only about whether any training had been received, not particular types. Therefore, caution should be used when comparing these estimates as they have been determined in different ways.

2005-06

- Survey collected as a topic of the Multipurpose Household Survey (MPHS) during the 2005-06 financial year.
- Changes in collection methodology between Sep 2000 and 2005-06 make comparisons between these surveys difficult.
- Work-related injuries and illnesses were specifically expanded to include any injuries or illnesses that occurred travelling to and from work, travelling for work, or during lunchtimes and any work breaks. The September 2000 survey did not specifically ask to include illnesses or injuries that occurred during these periods.
- Recurring injuries or illnesses were only included if the first occurrence was in the last 12 months. In September 2000, aggravation of an existing injury or illness was included if the aggravation was experienced while at work in the last 12 months.

Sep 2000

- First national Work-related Injury survey. Previous surveys were run in specific states and territories.
- Collected as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey during a single month (Sep 2000)